

## RPOS 373 Government and Politics of People's Republic of China

Course Information Page

### Welcome!

Welcome to RPOS 373! I am your instructor, Xiaoye She. In this course we will together explore essential topics of Chinese politics.

Please read through the course information page carefully BEFORE the course starts. Feel free to contact me (my contact info is listed below) if you have any question.

### Contact Information

Instructor:	Xiaoye She
Course Number:	RPOS 373
Semester:	Summer 2017
Email:	<a href="mailto:xshe@albany.edu">xshe@albany.edu</a>
Private Communications:	For <i>private</i> communication with me, please use the Email (external: <a href="mailto:xshe@albany.edu">xshe@albany.edu</a> ) ONLY. Anything other than private communication should be posted in the appropriate course areas. As a student you can post any general question on Blackboard (under "Discussion Board" --"Ask a Question"). If you see posts from other students that you know the answer, you are encouraged to directly reply on the discussion board.
Phone:	413-835-5912
Logon Schedule:	As the instructor I will logon to Blackboard and reply to emails regularly during the four-week period of this course. <u>Weekday schedule: Twice a day (9-10 am and 3-4 pm)</u> <u>Weekend schedule: Once a day (9-10 pm)</u> Emails will be replied within 24 hours unless notified by automatic reply.

### Overview

#### Course Description

This course provides students an overview of politics, economy and society of China, and help students understand the domestic sources of China's rising power and its related controversies. It begins with an overview of Chinese politics as a field, and brief synopsis of political history from revolution to reform. The second part looks at the nuts and bolts of China's political, economic and legal governance, covering topics of political ideology, the party-state, elite politics, central-local relations, local elections, as well as economic and legal reform. The third part explores post-reform state-society relations as well contemporary issues such as energy, environment, health, and population, then discusses prospects for democracy. The course then concludes with a brief discussion of China's shifting foreign policy and peripheral politics. Issues covered includes US-China relations, China's rise and its regional and global implications, and political issues of periphery regions such as Xinjiang, Tibet, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. No previous knowledge of China's history, culture, or language is required nor will such knowledge be assumed.

#### Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the historical origins and sources of legitimacy of the communist party rule in China
- Comprehend the political science jargons, concepts, theories in relation to essential topics of Chinese politics
- Evaluate contemporary issues and debates on domestic politics and foreign policy critically from historical and theoretical stances
- Produce arguments on issues of Chinese domestic politics or foreign policy with clear supporting evidence
- Organize and present your arguments and findings in written formats

## Readings

### Required Textbook:

- **Joseph, William A. 2014. *Politics in China: An Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (ISBN: 9780199339426)**

### Recommended Books:

- Fewsmith, Joseph. 2010. *China Today, China Tomorrow: Domestic Politics, Economy, and Society*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield. (ISBN: 9780742567078)
- Kissinger, Henry. 2011. *On China*. New York: Penguin. (ISBN: 9780143121312)

All other readings, videos and links to additional resources will be posted on blackboard under learning modules. Each module will contain a list of required and recommended readings/videos. Students are expected to complete all required readings and videos before due, and use recommended ones as reference materials. You should contact the instructor immediately if you cannot get access to any specific course material.

### Follow the News:

During this course, students are expected to keep abreast of current events on Chinese politics. The best way of informing yourself is by reading (in print or on-line) a newspaper or magazine with good coverage on China with a political focus, for example:

- CNN: <http://www.cnn.com/china>.
- The Economist: <http://www.economist.com/topics/china>.
- BBC News: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world/asia/china>.
- Financial Times: <https://www.ft.com/china>. (mostly on China's political economy)
- Wall Street Journal: <https://www.wsj.com/news/world/china>. (mostly on China's economy)
- South China Morning Post: <http://www.scmp.com/news/china>. (Hong Kong-based newspaper that provides comprehensive coverage on China).

Beyond news coverage, you are encouraged to read articles from the sources below, which provide in-depth analyses on contemporary issues of Chinese politics and policy:

- Foreign Affairs: <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/regions/china>. (analytical and opinion pieces covering mostly foreign policy and IR issues)
- The Brookings Institution: <https://www.brookings.edu/topic/china/>. (a combination of domestic politics and IR/foreign policy pieces)
- The Hoover Institution: <http://www.hoover.org/publications/china-leadership-monitor>. (a collection of short analytical articles focusing on CCP leadership)

- The Diplomat: <http://thediplomat.com/category/china-power>. (Tokyo-based magazine with a daily blog on rising China power).

In addition, I encourage you to keep track of at least one of the government-sponsored Chinese media outlets, to get a sense of how things are perceived or described by the Chinese government, especially the “hard-liners”. For example:

- Xinhua News Agency: <http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/china/index.htm>.
- People’s Daily: <http://en.people.cn/>.
- Global Times: <http://www.globaltimes.cn/>. (often considered as more “hardline”, “hawkish” and “nationalist”)

You will be asked to post at least one news article in the Newsroom discussion forum each week, with explanation for why you find the article interesting, how it connects to our course subjects, and your opinion on the issue. For more details on this assignment please go to “How you will be Evaluated” below and “Course Assignments” on Blackboard.

## Course Learning Activities

### General Guidelines

This course is delivered entirely online with asynchronous learning activities. The primary method of access to this course is the University Blackboard Learning System (BLS). Students are expected to complete EVERY learning activity on time as (all deadlines are indicated in the course schedule). If you have question regarding any of the steps, please email the instructor immediately.

### Module Activities and Assignments

- **Study Folder**

Each module contains a study folder that includes all the required readings and a study guide. All the required readings will be made available two weeks before the class starts on blackboard. You are strongly encouraged to skim through the readings **BEFORE** the class starts on May 30.

Once a learning module is made available, you should complete all the required readings of a learning module **no later than two days** after a learning module is made available and leave enough time to complete all the module activities. Since each module will be made available on Friday before the module week, this means you should complete all readings **before Tuesday** of that module week (Wednesday for Week 1). You should read thoroughly and use the study guide provided by the instructor as guiding documents.

- **Module Quizzes (20%)**
- **Newsroom Discussions (20%)**
- **Research Journals and Policy Memo (30%)**
- **Final Exam (30%)**

### How You Will Be Evaluated

#### Module Quizzes (20%)

There will be four module quizzes. The module quizzes will take 60 minutes, with 5 short answer questions that cover key topics in the required readings that week. Students are expected to answer each question with a clear structured-argument with strong-supporting evidence in 1-2 paragraphs.

During each module, the module quiz will be made available as soon as the module starts and will be due by **11:30 pm every Tuesday** during the four-week period.

Each quiz will be graded on a numerical scale of 1-5. Students who fail to take the quiz on time will receive an automatic zero on the module quiz task. The instructor will also post an optional quiz by the end of Module 3. If you take this optional quiz and receive a better grade, your lowest quiz grade will be dropped and result in a better overall grade.

### **Newsroom Discussions (20%)**

Each week after complete the readings, you are also required to participate in the module Newsroom Discussion Forum. The objective is to help students stay abreast of current events of Chinese politics, facilitate knowledge sharing, and explore these issues together from analytical perspectives.

This assignment is divided into two tasks. In **Task 1 News Analysis**, each student should post a link to a latest news story about Chinese politics using the news sources provided by the instructor (or an alternative source with permission by the instructor in advance). The student should also explain why he/she thinks the news is relevant to this course, and provide his/her own analysis of the issue in 3-4 paragraphs. Task 1 is due **11:30 pm every Wednesday** (Thursday on Week 1) during the four-week period. Once you post your news analysis, you will be able to see other's posts, and reply to them in Task 2.

In **Task 2 Discussion Participation**, student should respond to **at least two** of other students' posts by providing your own perspectives on the issue posted. **Students are strongly encouraged to reply to as many posts and as early as they can to facilitate a lively discussion.** The response posts are due by **11:30pm every Thursday** (Friday for Week 1) of that module week.

The instructor will grade your news analysis post on a numerical scale of 0-3 and the response posts on a numerical scale of 0-2 based on number and quality of posts. In addition, extra credits (0-2) will be provided to students who respond to more than two posts and provide high-quality responses. Students who fail to post news analysis and/or responses before the deadlines will receive an automatic zero on the task(s).

### **Research Journals and Policy Memo (30%)**

Students are expected to complete an independent research task on a specific issue of Chinese politics during this course. The final product will take the form of policy memo from either Chinese domestic or US foreign policy perspectives. In writing this policy memo, students may choose to take the role of a policy advisor to the Chinese government, or a foreign policy advisor to US government. The instructor will provide a list of sample topics students can choose from, and the research guidelines at the beginning of Module 1. Students are encouraged to contact the instructor and acquire permission if they want to choose a different topic beyond the list.

For the first three weeks, you are responsible to post three weekly research journals by **11:30 pm every Friday** (Sunday for Week 1). The instructor will provide you feedback no later than 11:30 pm next Tuesday. During the fourth week, you should compile your revised journals and submit a final policy memo by **11:30 pm on Friday, June 23, 2017.**

The instructor will grade your first three weekly research journals on a numerical scale of 0-5. Any late submission will result in automatic grade penalty of 2.5 points (out of 5) per day. The final research report will be graded on a numerical scale of 1-15. Late submission of the final report will result in automatic grade penalty of 5 points (out of 15) per day.

### Final Exam (30%)

The final exam will be made available on Blackboard between 8am June 19 and 11:30pm June 23. There will be 5 short answer questions (3 points each) and a long essay question (15 points) Students should complete the final exam independently and submit their answers to Blackboard no later than **11:30pm on Friday, June 23.**

The final exam will be graded on a numerical scale of 0-30. Students who fail to take the final exam on time will receive an automatic zero on the final exam.

The final grades of this course will be determined as follows:

<i>Grade Scale</i>	<i>Conversion</i>	<i>Grade Scale</i>	<i>Conversion</i>
93-100	A	73-76	C
90-92	A-	70-72	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
83-86	B	63-66	D
80-82	B-	60-62	D-
77-79	C+	Grade < 60	E

### My Expectations

Students are expected to work diligently and complete all activities on time during this course. It is students' responsibility to make sure they have the textbook at hand throughout the four-week period. Students should get themselves familiar with the blackboard environment and the course structure **BEFORE** the four-week period starts.

On average, students are expected to spend approximately **three hours every day, five days a week** during the four-week period (time allocation may vary according to your reading ability and study strategy).

If you have any question regarding any of the activities, you should either post your question on blackboard under "Ask a Question" or email the instructor as soon as possible.

### Late or Missed Activities and Assignments

Late submission will not be accepted unless you email the instructor at least **one day BEFORE** the task is due and provide legitimate reasons. Missed assignments will be counted as a zero which will result in significant reduction of your overall course grade.

### Plagiarism and/or Academic Dishonesty

Any student found to be in violation of the University's policy on plagiarism and academic dishonesty will receive an automatic F in this course and will be reported to the appropriate authorities. You are expected to go through the library tutorial "Plagiarism 101" before the class begin, and cite every source appropriately in your final policy brief. Please consult the university handbook and the following resources if you have any questions:

Regulations: [http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate\\_bulletin/regulations.html](http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/regulations.html)

Citation instructions: <http://library.albany.edu/usered/cite/citing.html>

Plagiarism 101: <http://library.albany.edu/usered/plagiarism/index.html>

### Accommodations

If you believe you have a disability requiring accommodation in this class, please notify the Director of Disabled student Services (campus Center 137, 442-5490). If you wish to discuss academic

accommodations for this course, please contact the instructor as early as possible. The instructor will make every effort to accommodate difficulties arising from religious observance.

## Course Schedule

[Print this document](#)

### COURSE CALENDAR AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

Note: \*\* = Required, [R] = Recommended, [EB] or [LB] = Excerpts or Links on Blackboard

Module	Start	End	Assignments Due	Due Date
<p><b>Sample Module: Ice Breaker</b></p> <p><i>This module is designed to help you get familiar with the course structure and assignment formats. You are encouraged to complete the assignments and readings BEFORE the class starts (extra credits provided).</i></p>	--	May 30	Readings: [R] Joseph, William A. 2014. "Studying Chinese Politics." In <i>Politics in China: an introduction</i> , 3-40. [R] "Glossary". In <i>Politics in China: an introduction</i> , 491-526. (Skim) [R] Sutter, Robert G. 2013. "Assessing China's Role in World Affairs." In <i>Foreign Relations of the PRC</i> , 1-28. [EB] [R] Holz, Carsten A. 2007. "Have China scholars all been bought?" <i>Far Eastern Economic Review</i> no. 170 (3):36. [EB] [R] CIA, the World FactBook: China. [LB] [R] PBS. <i>China: A Century of Revolution</i> . Part II "The Mao Years" & Part III "Born under the Red Flag". (Skim Part I "China in Revolution") [LB]	
			<b>Sample Module Quiz</b>	May 30 11:30 pm
			<b>Meet Your Classmates</b>	May 30 11:30 pm
			<b>Why Study Chinese Politics</b>	May 30 11:30 pm
<p><b>Module 1: Overview &amp; Historical Perspectives</b></p> <p><i>In this module we will explore the field of Chinese politics from a historical perspective, covering the period of communist rule under Mao and the reform period after 1978.</i></p>	May 30	Jun 4	Readings and Videos: **Joseph, William A. 2014. "Studying Chinese Politics." In <i>Politics in China: an introduction</i> , 3-40. **Joseph, William A. 2014. "Timeline of Modern Chinese Political History". In <i>Politics in China: an introduction</i> , 485-490. <b>In addition, read the following chapters OR watch the PBS video series:</b> **Schoppa, R. Keith. "From Empire to Republic." In <i>Politics in China: an introduction</i> , 41-71. **Teiwes, Frederick C. "Mao Zedong in Power." In <i>Politics in China: an introduction</i> , 72-118. **Gilley, Bruce. "Deng Xiaoping and His Successors." In <i>Politics in China: an introduction</i> , 119-148. <b>OR</b> *PBS. <i>China: A Century of Revolution</i> . Part I "China in Revolution" (skim), Part II "The Mao Years" & Part III "Born under the Red Flag". [LB]	

Module	Start	End	Assignments Due	Due Date
			[R] Kissinger, Henry. "The Singularity of China." In <i>On China</i> , 5-32. [EB] [R] The Economist. "China's Future". [EB] [R] Foreign Affairs. "The Cultural Revolution, Fifty Years Later." [EB]	
			<b>Module 1 Quiz</b>	May 31 11:30 pm
			<b>Module 1 Newsroom Discussion</b>	T1 Jun 1 11:30 pm T2 Jun 2 11:30 pm
			<b>Research Journal 1</b>	Jun 4 11:30 pm
<b>Module 2:</b> <b>Political Logics of Reform and Growth</b> <i>In this module we will explore nuts and bolts of Chinese politics and economics, covering topics of political ideology, party-state, and political economy.</i>	Jun 5	Jun 9	Readings and Videos: **Joseph, William A. 2014. "Ideology and China's Political Development". In <i>Politics in China: an introduction</i> , 149-191. **Li, Cheng. 2014. "China's Communist Party-State: The Structure and Dynamics of Power." In <i>Politics in China: an introduction</i> , 192-223. **DeLisle, Lacques. 2014. "China's Legal System." In <i>Politics in China: an introduction</i> , 224-253. **Zweig, David. 2014. "China's Political Economy." In <i>Politics in China: an introduction</i> , 254-292. **PBS. <i>China from the Inside</i> . Episode 1. "Power and the People." [LB]  [R] BBC. "How China is Ruled." [LB] [R] Johnson, Christopher K. & Scott Kennedy. "China's Un-Separation of Powers." <i>Foreign Affairs</i> . [EB] [R] The Economist. "The Economist Explains: What is China's Plenum and Why does it Matter?" [R] The Economist. "The Two Faces of Xi: China's President Talks Like a Reformer, but the Reality is Very different." [EB] [R] Naughton, Barry. "Economic Growth: From High-Speed to High-Quality." In <i>China Today, China Tomorrow: Domestic Politics, Economy and Society</i> , 71-90. [EB] [R] Liao, Rebecca. 2017. "China's Path Toward the Rule of Law: the Promise and Pitfalls of Its Forthcoming Civil Code." <i>Foreign Affairs</i> . [EB] [R] The Economist. "Comparing Chinese Provinces with Countries." [LB]	
			<b>Module 2 Quiz</b>	Jun 6 11:30 pm
			<b>Module 2 Newsroom Discussion</b>	T1 Jun 7 11:30 pm

Module	Start	End	Assignments Due	Due Date
				T2 Jun 8 11:30 pm
			<b>Research Journal 2</b>	Jun 9 11:30 pm
<p><b>Module 3:</b>  <b>Governing China: Changing State-Society Relations &amp; Prospects for Democracy</b>  <i>In this module we will explore the changing governance structure and social order in China, in relation to the urban-rural divide and key challenges such as energy, environment, public health, and population growth. We will then return to a broader discussion on China's prospects for democracy.</i></p>	Jun 12	Jun 16	<p>Readings:</p> <p>**Kennedy, John J. 2014. "Rural China: Reform and Resistance". In <i>Politics in China: an introduction</i>, 293-319.</p> <p>**Hurst, William. 2014. "Urban China: Change and Contention." In <i>Politics in China: an introduction</i>, 320-341.</p> <p>**Liu, Yu, and Dingding Chen. 2012. "Why China Will Democratize." <i>The Washington Quarterly</i> no. 35 (1):41-63. [EB]</p> <p>**Nathan, Andrew J. 2013. "Foreseeing the unforeseeable." <i>Journal of Democracy</i> no. 24 (1):20-25. [EB]</p> <p><b>Choose and read two of the chapters below:</b></p> <p>**Cunningham, Edward A. "Energy Governance: Fueling the Miracle." In <i>China Today, China Tomorrow</i>, 223-258.</p> <p>**Lewis, Joanna. "Environmental Challenges: From the Local to the Global." In <i>China Today, China Tomorrow</i>, 259-275.</p> <p>**Kaufman, Joan. 2014. "Policy Case Study: Public Health." In <i>Politics in China: an introduction</i>, 365-379.</p> <p>**White, Tyrene. 2014. "Population Policy." In <i>Politics in China: an introduction</i>, 380-399.</p> <p>[R] Nathan, Andrew J. "A China of Citizens: Xu Zhiyong's Quest for a Free China." <i>Foreign Affairs</i>. [EB]</p> <p>[R] The Economist. "China's Middle Class: 225m reasons for China's Leaders to Worry." [EB]</p> <p>[R] Johnson, Ian. "China's Great Awakening: How the People's Republic Got Religion." <i>Foreign Affairs</i>. [EB]</p> <p>[R] PBS. <i>China from the Inside</i>. Episode 2. "Women of the Country." [LB]</p> <p>[R] PBS. <i>China from the Inside</i>. Episode 3. "Shifting Nature." [LB]</p> <p>[R] PBS. <i>China from the Inside</i>. Episode 4. "Freedom and Justice." [LB]</p>	
			<b>Module 3 Quiz</b>	Jun 13 11:30 pm
			<b>Module 3 Newsroom Discussion</b>	T1 Jun 14 11:30 pm T2 Jun 15 11:30 pm
			<b>Research Journal 3</b>	Jun 16 11:30 pm

Module	Start	End	Assignments Due	Due Date
<p><b>Module 4:</b>  <b>Periphery Politics and Foreign Policy: A Fragile Super Power?</b>  <i>In this module we will explore some “hot topics” of Chinese periphery politics and foreign policy. We will then return to a broader discussion on China’s future as a rising global power.</i></p>	Jun 19	Jun 23	Readings: **Sutter, Robert G. 2013. “Assessing China’s Role in World Affairs.” In <i>Foreign Relations of the PRC</i> , 1-28. [EB] **Kissinger, Henry. 2011. “Does History Repeat Itself?” 514-530. [EB] **The Diplomat. “How the Chinese Bureaucracy Decides.” [EB] **Shirk, Susan L. 2007. “Strong Abroad but Fragile at Home.” In <i>Fragile Superpower</i> , 1-12. [EB] **Shirk, Susan 2007. “The Echo Chamber of Nationalism: Media and the Internet.” In <i>Fragile Superpower</i> , 79-104. [EB] <b>Choose and read two of the chapters below:</b> **Barnett, Robert. 2014. “Tibet.” In <i>Politics in China: an introduction</i> , 401-427. **Bovindon, Gardner. 2014. “Xinjiang.” In <i>Politics in China: an introduction</i> , 428-451. **Shiu-Hing Lo. 2014. “Hong Kong.” In <i>Politics in China: an introduction</i> , 452-467. **Rigger, Shelly. 2014. “Taiwan.” In <i>Politics in China: an introduction</i> , 468-484.  [R] Foreign Policy Research Institute. “China Rising: Assessing China’s Economic and Military Power.” [EB] [R] The Economist. “The One-China Policy: The Great Obfuscation of One-China.” [EB] [R] The Economist. “Who is Chinese: The Upper Han.” [EB] [R] The Economist. “Foreign Policy: Our Bulldozers, Our Rules.” [EB] [R] Foreign Affairs. “Who’s Afraid of AIIB.” [EB] [R] Foreign Affairs. “The Good, the THAAD, and the Ugly.” [EB]	
			<b>Module 4 Quiz</b>	Jun 20 11:30 pm
			<b>Module 4 Newsroom Discussion</b>	T1 Jun 21 11:30 pm T2 Jun 22 11:30 pm
			<b>Final Policy Memo</b>	Jun 23 11:30 pm
<b>Final Exam Module</b>	Jun 19	Jun 23	<i>Final Exam</i>	Jun 23 11:30 pm

## Netiquette

You are expected to be respectful to your fellow students. Think before you type just like you are interacting with each other face-to-face. Please refrain from profanity, inappropriate language, slander, and discrimination. You should respect the diverse opinions and views of your classmates, even if you disagree with them.

The instructor reserve the right to remove any posts that are offensive or inappropriate and will contact the student whose post was removed. For more information about netiquette, please see The Core Rules for Netiquette (<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>) by Virginia Shea.

## Getting Technical Help

This course will go live to students two weeks before the first day of class. Students should use that time to check browser and make any recommended adjustments to your browser so that you pass the check.

If you require assistance, you should contact the ITS Service Desk by submitting a request at <http://www.albany.edu/its/help>.

## YOUR NEXT STEPS

The **Bulletin Board** is a discussion area for our class outside the context of a particular course module. Just as you have the opportunity to talk or chat with each other or with the instructor when taking a conventional classroom course, you should also have the opportunity to do the same in a web course. The Bulletin Board is available only to students enrolled in this class to post and/or read messages and respond. These can include questions or comments to other students and me about course material, assignments, readings, etc. It is also a place where you can go to socialize and have open discussion on subjects of your interests.

As your next steps, click on the Discussions link (on tool bar on the left) and complete the following task: Click on **Bulletin Board**. Post an item to start a discussion or read other students' responses, if there are any, and respond.

**When you have completed this task, you are ready to begin the ice breaker module of the course under the Course Content link (tool bar on the left). You are encouraged to explore the module, complete the required readings and two assignments ("Meet your classmates" and "Why Studying Chinese Politics") in the module before May 30 11:30 pm. Students will receive 1 bonus point on each assignment they completed.**